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c. 1962/02/27

SECRET

DRAFT MESSAGE FOR ADMIRAL FELT

At the President's direction, you should inform Sarit that the US will not allow itself to be driven into a war in Laos by Phoumi's intransigence. You are undoubtedly familiar with fact that Sarit is in close contact with Phoumi and that Phoumi is relying on Sarit's help and advice. Sarit should understand that advice he may give to Phoumi to hold out in expectation of eventual US military intervention is completely without foundation and can only lead to disaster for Phoumi and his country. With Souvanna and the Pathet Lao increasingly at odds, there is now a real chance to unite non-Communists in Laos with strong US and other international support. Time is running out and Sarit should send word to Phoumi to urge him to cooperate with Ambassador Brown and Souvanna.

Similar instructions for your discussion with Phoumi will follow.

FE:WAHarriman:aa

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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